

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

APRIL WEATHER.

Another Unprecedented Month—The warmest April on record in this vicinity—Comparisons with the Past.

The month of April follows the example of March, and proves to have been decidedly the warmest April on record in this vicinity since 1780. In the following table is given the temperature of each day, according to the record kept at the Pennsylvania Hospital, including the maximum and minimum standing, and that at 9 o'clock in the morning—

Table with columns for Day, Max., Min., and 9 A.M. temperature. Includes a 'Remarks' column with weather descriptions like 'Steady rain all day' and 'Clear with high wind'.

This gives a mean temperature during the month of 57.91 deg., while the average of the means since 1780 has been only 51.35 deg., and since 1825 only 52 deg. The mean temperature of March was 48.7 deg., the average of the means for the corresponding month since 1780 having been 59.2 deg., and 41.94 deg. since 1825.

To show how completely the month just closed has exceeded its corresponding predecessors in warmth, we present the following table, which gives the mean, maximum, and minimum temperature of the month of April in each year since 1841, with the range of the thermometer during the month—

Table showing mean, max., min., and range of thermometer for April from 1841 to 1870. Columns include Year, Mean, Max., Min., and Range.

An examination of this table shows not only that the month just closed has displayed the highest mean temperature on record, but that during the month the thermometer at the Pennsylvania Hospital attained a higher elevation (85.5 degrees on the 9th) than during the corresponding month in any year since 1841 at least. The lowest mean temperature on record for April is 44.4 deg., in 1780 and 1782.

The mean of April, 1844, was the highest on record previous to this year, and the former month in some respects exceeded the latter. The highest point attained in April, 1844, was 83 deg. on the 15th; the highest in April, 1871, being 85.5 deg. on the 9th.

The years in which the mean temperature of April approached the nearest to the high point attained last month were 1844, 1865, and 1866. Below we give some points concerning these years, in addition to those given above. In 1844 the mean for the month, the average of the maximums and minimums, and also of the temperature at 9 o'clock in the morning—

During April an unusually small quantity of rain fell, measuring in the aggregate only 1.83 inches, nearly one-half of the whole having fallen on the afternoon of the 27th. The average rain-fall of the month during the past forty-four years has been 3.89 inches. Thus far during the year 14.30 inches of rain have fallen, the average for the corresponding months being 14.20 inches, and the quantity in the same period of last year 16.27 inches.

PARADE OF THE SECOND REGIMENT.—The 2d Regiment (National Guards) will make a street parade this afternoon, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Neff, the commander (Colonel Lyle) not being able to present. This command has been making preparations for this display for some time past, and the turnout will be not only very strong in numbers but will also make a fine appearance, as the men will be dressed in a new and handsome uniform. The Guards will form at half-past 2 o'clock on Race street, below Sixth, and will march over the following route:—Up Race to Sixth, to Market, to Fourth, to Christian, to Broad, to Chesnut, to Third, to Green, to Sixth, and thence to the armory.

FOREIGN AND COASTWISE ARRIVALS FOR APRIL.—Below is given the number of arrivals, coastwise and foreign, at the port of Philadelphia during the month just past. The figures for April last year are also given:—

Table comparing arrivals for April 1871 and April 1870. Columns include Ships, Passengers, and other statistics.

TRANS-ATLANTIC.

The Philadelphia Steamship Company—Proposals to be Received for Four First-Class Ocean Propellers.

The American Steamship Company of Philadelphia has just issued the following important circular, which is self-explanatory:—OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, PHILADELPHIA, April 29, 1871.—This company desire to have built, of iron, four first-class propeller steamers, with single screw propellers, to run from this port to Europe, and will receive proposals for the construction of one or more of said vessels, up to 11 o'clock, noon, of Tuesday, August 1st.

To enable parties to prepare plans and make propositions, the following information is furnished:—Size of vessel from 3000 to 3500 tons, old measurement. Deep load draft, in fresh water, not to exceed 30 feet 6 inches, exclusive of masts, and not to be less than 19 feet 6 inches. Average speed (taken from three round voyages) not to be less than eleven and one-half knots per hour.

There will be required twenty-four staterooms for first-class passengers, and accommodations for twenty-four first-class staterooms, and fifty to one thousand steerage passengers. A model of the vessel proposed must be furnished, showing a plan and elevation of the hull, with shear plan and plan of water lines taken from the same.

The following plans will be required, all made to a scale of one inch of an inch:—Plan of hull, vertical, longitudinal section of vessel and machinery. Plan of deck and hold, showing position of coal and machinery. Midship section, and sections at centre of boilers and engines.

Also, a statement of tons of coal carried in bunkers, and dead weight of cargo at twenty feet six inches draft in fresh water, exclusive of keel. And the capacity of cargo hold, in tons, of each separate draught, in tons of forty cubic feet each.

Also, a general specification of boilers and machinery for each additional boiler and steam machinery as it may be intended to place on board. The vessels, when completed, must rate according to the following:—Twenty-four staterooms, with certain specifications agreeing with the same, and including spars, sails, rigging, and outfit (cabin and deck) cooking utensils, and all other articles necessary for the vessel at the wharf of the company in this city.

Parties obtaining the contract will be required to furnish a statement of the proposed round voyage against all defects in workmanship or material. The engineers to be such as he or they shall approve. The same time required to complete each vessel from date of contract, under forfeiture of \$500 per day; also, give names of sureties.

Parties to be bound to follow:—Seventy-five per cent. as the work progresses; ten per cent. when the vessel has made a successful trial trip and delivered at the wharf of the company; and fifteen per cent. when the vessel has completed its round voyage, the vessel having fulfilled all guarantees.

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EXPORTS.

The Business of the City in Domestic Exports During the Past Month—Tables of the Ports Shipped to and of the Nationalities of the Vessels.

The list of commodities, produce and manufactures of the United States, exported to foreign countries from this port during the month of April 1871, in the domestic and foreign vessels, embraces goods to the total value of \$1,276,687.

Among the articles were bread and breadstuffs, embracing bread bleat, Indian corn, Indian corn meal, wheat, wheat flour, and oats, to the value of \$232,892.

Provisions, including bacon, hams, beef, butter, cheese, fish, lard, pork, potatoes, and other vegetables were sent to the value of \$323,822.

Of refined and crude petroleum 2,937,310 gallons were exported, worth \$683,323. The next largest amount is that for coopers, boards, and wood manufactures, which is \$163,635, coopers being the largest item. Next in order are molasses, exported to the value of \$79,978.

Tallow was exported to the value of \$23,445, gold and silver coin to the value of \$20,000, oil cake to the value of \$15,805, and cotton to the value of \$11,155.

Among the minor items may be mentioned iron, including machinery, nails, and other manufactures, worth \$7075; tobacco, leaf and snuff, worth \$4845; candles worth \$4739; agricultural implements worth \$4231; bark for tanning worth \$3487; resin worth \$3244; lard oil worth \$2433; drugs and chemicals worth \$3599; and coal worth \$2151.

The remaining exports include beer, blacking, cordage, gas fixtures, glass, hair, leather, matches, tar, paper, soap, starch, and vinegar. The total value of the exports for the month is \$1,276,687.

Table showing exports by country: America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, etc. with values in dollars.

The following is a statement of the nationalities of the vessels:—American, 48,299; British, 19,700; North German, 1,100; Italian, 1,200; Danish, 1,300; Swedish, 1,400.

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THE CENTENNIAL.

Interesting Meeting of the Centennial Committee at Noon.

At noon to-day a meeting of the Committee of City Councils on Centennial Celebration was held in Select Council chamber, John L. Shoemaker, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. Shoemaker presented the following communication from the Hon. A. B. Cochrane, chairman of the Committee on Centennial Celebration of the House of Delegates of Virginia:—

PHILADELPHIA, April 16, 1871.—John L. Shoemaker, Esq., Chairman, etc. Dear Sir:—Permit me to present through you, to the Joint Special Committee on the Celebration of Centennial Anniversary of American Independence, appointed by the Councils of the city of Philadelphia, a photographic group of the Virginia whose visit to your city has just been completed.

The Virginia committee experienced such a reception from you and your countrymen that they desire the committee to place a permanent and appropriate monument to the memory of the Virginia committee.

A communication from Colonel Frank Etting relative to Independence Hall, as follows:—

John L. Shoemaker, Esq., Chairman, etc. Sir:—In view of the fact that the centennial anniversary of the independence of the country, I have a suggestion to make which I have reason to believe will be of great value to the city.

The restoration of the room in which the Declaration itself was first introduced and ultimately signed, to its original state, or at least as near to it as practicable.

Efforts were formerly made to this end, but of late years the design seems to have been lost sight of, and the room has become a mere depository of miscellaneous portraits and objects of various sorts, which, though interesting and valuable in themselves, have no association therewith, but seem in many instances to detract it.

That every effort should be made to reclaim the original furniture of the room, to obtain as far as practicable portraits of the signers not already in the room, and to have the room refurnished in accordance with the original chairs discovered by me at Harrisburg I addressed a letter to Governor Curtin in 1865, who promised that they should be sent back to the hall; but after an absence of several years from the State I have not heard from him since.

A third chair is owned by the Philosophical Society and a fourth by myself. This last has the original covering of leather, and has been in the possession of my family for sixty or seventy years. It has long been my intention to present it to the city ultimately, an intention that I shall gladly carry into effect towards the desired end.

It seems to me, first, that some safe place should be provided (possibly in the same building), to which could be transferred all portraits and relics not already in the room, and in which could be preserved whatever may be appropriate to a city museum.

In reference to the additional portraits needed to complete (as far as possible) the set of the signers belonging to the city, a more favorable opportunity than has yet occurred has presented itself, for such a national purpose, portraits can be secured from the families on deposit, or in permanent collection in the former case artists found to copy with the approval of the owners.

This communication was, at the suggestion of Mr. Shoemaker, referred to a special committee, composed of such members of the Centennial Committee as are also members of the Committee on the Property of the City.

Messrs. King, Fairer, Shalleross, E. K. Nichols, and Henry Bunn were appointed as the committee.

The committee then adjourned, after the consideration of various minor matters.

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FOURTH EDITION.

MATTERS AT WASHINGTON.

The Public Debt Statement.

The Reduction in April.

The Joint High Commission.

Fishery and San Juan Questions.

The English Counter Claims.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Joint High Commission.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Several of the American commissioners have informed some Senators who are to take a prominent part in the debate on the forthcoming treaty between Great Britain and the United States, that the point of settlement, it appears that the navigation of the St. Lawrence River and Canadian Canal is settled outright favorably to the United States.

The San Juan Boundary. A question is now referred to an arbitrator, whose decision is, the commissioners believe, cannot fail to be in favor of the United States.

The Alabama Claims. The only principles upon which they are to be adjudicated hereafter by the commissioners are agreed upon. These principles are regarded as very liberal towards the United States, and the manner in which our Government admits the validity of the claims.

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FROM NEW ENGLAND.

Project for their Sale—Present Condition of the Lands.

A Washington despatch to the New York Times says:—Instructions have been prepared in the General Land Office for the survey of the Indian lands in Kansas, known as the Cherokee strip. In a treaty with the Cherokee in 1866 this land was ceded to the United States, and the Government has since that time been endeavoring to sell it. The land is a strip two miles and a few chains wide in Kansas, next the southern boundary, along which it extends north to the Missouri river, and which has been pushed for a long time in Congress and passed the Senate at the last session, but failed in the House, was intended to correct the informality above noted, and place the lands upon the market, to be sold in trust for the Cherokee, at an appraised price, not less than \$125 per acre.

These lands were well settled upon by the Indians who went to secure titles to what they have improved, and others living near are represented as being ready to buy as soon as they have an opportunity. The Indians, however, are not to be parted, perhaps, but has not been considered yet. In view of the certainty of the sale ultimately, the order of survey is being made, and the survey cannot be made until the commission is appointed to define the southern boundary of the Kansas has concluded its work. This boundary line is surveyed by the War Department many years ago, and the notes of the surveyor cannot be found; and the bounds then made at irregular intervals, and the notes of the surveyor are now destroyed. It is supposed the work of re-establishing this boundary will occupy three months, and it is thought that it may become necessary, the survey of the lands themselves cannot, therefore, begin till autumn, and may not be completed this year. There is, therefore, no prospect for the speculative schemes, and it is determined that no such schemes shall ever succeed, if every possible precaution can be taken to prevent the rights of the Indians, the settlers, and the Government are being carefully guarded. The lands are described as very valuable, from their location and native fertility, and of course speculators will obtain them if they can.

SMOTHERED TO DEATH. A Father, Mother, and a Three-Year Old Child Suffocated in their Sleep—A Ghastly Scene.

From the Albany Journal, April 29. A horror of the most appalling kind was brought to light in the two-story and basement brick house, No. 25 Basset street, New York, on Saturday night, Mr. John Donovan, his wife Mary, and their two children, aged respectively eleven and three years, were found dead in their beds, and the cause of their death was ascertained to be asphyxiation, having overcome with fatigue, having moved into the premises but yesterday or the day before. Before retiring the husband had a coal fire in a common stove erected in the kitchen, and the door of the stove was left open, and the fire was left burning. The mother, who was sitting up in bed, and the father, who was sitting up in bed, and the children, who were sitting up in bed, were all found dead in their beds, and the cause of their death was asphyxiation, having overcome with fatigue, having moved into the premises but yesterday or the day before.

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